MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
NEW WARRIORS MACE
VENGEANCE HAWKEYE
161
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WALKER
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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY ROBERT WALKER

MACE

"ORIGINS"
PART 2

WRITER .....CARL POTTS
PENCILS .....BARRY CRAIN
INKS .....HILARY BARTA
LETTERS .....SUE CRESPI
COLORS .....ASHLEY POSELLA

The drama unfolds in the secret laboratories of the Shadow Warriors to reveal the origin of the mysterious and deadly master ninja Mace.

HAWKEYE

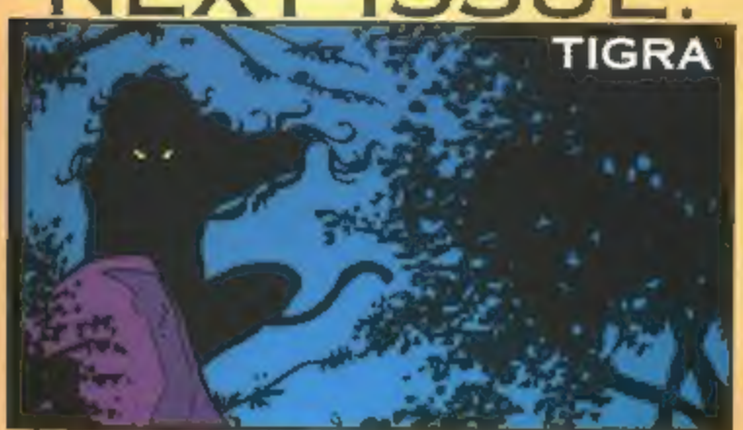
"THE HUNGRY WOLF"
PART 3 OF 3

WRITER .....NEL YOMTOV
PENCILS .....JERRY DECAIRE
INKS...JERRY DECAIRE, JOE RUBINSTEIN
LETTERS.....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....MICHAEL ROCKWITZ

USAgent and Hawkeye struggle with the ferocity of beasts in the midnight wilderness that belongs to the savage wolf.

Correction: The past three issues we have credited UI Higgins with the lettering for our Vengeance feature,when in fact it was the work of the handsome Bullpenner Matt Maley; sorry Matt. Say, weren't you recently seen in four color splendor with a girl named Betty?

NEXT ISSUE:



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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

Dear Editor,

Let me say one word to you - weekly.

Well, why not? You've conquered biweekly and it is reassuring that if MCP doesn't arrive at the local comic shop (Heroes & Hitters in my case) one week, it will the next.

An anthology story format is a sure no-lose situation. If you don't like one story, keep reading, maybe you'll like the next one better. You get exposed to corners of the Marvel Universe that you wouldn't have explored otherwise.

Maybe (if you drink your milk and say your prayers at night) one of your favorite series-less characters will be spotlighted. MCP #157's Fury tale was one of those happy occasions. I've been following Nick since his creation in those Bond/Smart/U.N.C.L.E./Flint spy-obsessed Sixties and he still hasn't worn out his welcome.

How did I like it? The art didn't fit in with my own personal tastes (I consider Ditko to be the ideal comic artist) but it was high-level professional quality so it did not detract from the story.

The story was a unique, well crafted tale of Fury's destruction of a Hydra Base. Based on this one story I would definitely give Mariano Nicieza more work.

I almost wrote a couple of issues ago to remark on the synchronicity of Shang Chi resurfacing at the time that Ted Turner was resurrecting KUNG FU. (Of course I remember the pre-disco Kung Fu movie of the early Seventies.)

See you in two weeks,

Bill Hall
556 Main Street
Cromwell, CT 06457

Weekly, ARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRGH!

Bill, if you knew the amount of work and pressure we go through each week to get this book out even biweekly, you wouldn't ask that of us no matter how much you wanted to see a new MCP on your shelves every week. You'll have to let us know what you thought of Glenn Greenberg and Edmond Perryman's foray with Fury in issue 159. Look for Mariano's upcoming Thing story with wonderful art by John Ross.

Dear MCP,

Put in my vote for liking the "new look" of MCP. I'm a longtime fan and enjoy it because of its diversity. Admittedly I'm not a big fan of either Ghost Rider or Wolverine so I tend to really like the one-shot stories with Marvel's more offbeat characters.The recent Destroyer story was a wonderful example of a small but poignant story using a character that hasn't been seen in a while. Likewise, the Werewolf story in last year's Midnight Sons issues was fantastic. Hmm, artist James Frye was associated with both of those tales. Also, the Devil-Slayer stories seemed to be going somewhere. I hope that is not the last we see of that mysterious character with the haunted past. Most letter writers seem to ask for stories featuring their favorite obscure characters. Well I vote for Man-Thing; now that Shang Chi is back (great art on that series as well) it's time to bring back that muck-encrusted monster from the seventies! The stories that were in BOOK OF THE DEAD only served to whet my appetite for more of the man monster.

I never felt the grading system some letter writer gave you

(letters page continues on cover three)

THE NEW WARRIORS
AND
SLAPSTICK!
IT BEGAN WITH A ROUTINE SATURDAY AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN MANHATTAN.
IN THEIR CIVILIAN GUISES, SPEEDBALL, RAGE, AND TURBO OF THE YOUTHFUL SUPER HERO ADVENTURERS, THE NEW WARRIORS--
--AND THE OFFBEAT SCOURGE OF GOOD TASTE, SLAPSTICK--CAME HERE TO COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS.
WHAT THEY ENCOUNTERED, INSTEAD, HAS TURNED INTO A LESSON IN THE CORRUPTIVE NATURE OF POWER--
--AND THE BREAKING DOWN OF THE NATURAL LAWS OF PHYSICS!
CHAPTER THREE:
YESTERDAY WILL BE MORE FUN THAN TOMORROW WAS

I AM NOT RESCUING YOU!
I'M JUST MAKING SURE THEY DON'T TRY TAKING ME DOWN, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND ME!
THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH FOR RESCUING ME, MY-NEW-FOUND-FRIEND-WHO-APPEARS-TO-HAVE-BEEN-POURED-INTO-HER-COSTUME!
VWSHSHSH
I AM NOT HIDING, MADAM. I AM-- ADMIRING...
MICKEY MUSASHI, THE PART-TIME HERO KNOWN AS TURBO, GRIMACES INWARDLY, WONDERING IF SHE SHOULD HAVE EVEN BOTHERED TO HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF BED THIS MORNING!

SHE CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT A MEGALOMANIACAL VILLAIN NAMED DR. YESTERDAY--
--TO UNLEASH ALL THE AMBIENT CHRONAL ENERGIES WHICH EXIST AROUND THE CITY--
--THEREBY CREATING A RIPPLE-EFFECT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN POCKETS OF TIME TURNED INSIDE OUT ACROSS MANHATTAN!
AND SHE REALLY NEVER EXPECTED ONE OF THOSE TIME-POCKETS TO SPIT OUT AN ALIEN PEST NAMED THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN--
-- AND THE WORLD-FAMOUS SUPER HERO EXPLORERS WHO WERE CHASING HIM THOSE LONG YEARS AGO-- THE FANTASTIC FOUR!!
JUST LEMME HAVE ONE CLEAN SHOT AT BOTH OF 'EM STRETCHO!

NO--! PLEASE--!
I MEAN-- I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY--
--AND HE'S NOT MY FRIEND!
AND YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE-- OR I'M NOT--

--I'M NOT SURE WHO WALKED INTO WHOSE TIME ANYMORE...
SO, PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF, YOUNG LADY?
THAT'S NO LADY, THAT'S MY STRIFE!
WILL YOU SHUT UP!
DR. RICHARDS-- MY NAME IS TURBO-- I'M SORTOFAMEMBER-OFTHENEWWARRIORS-BUTYOUWON'TMEET-USFORAFEWMORE-YEARS--
--WEWEREFIGHTINGA-VILLAINNAMEDDR.-YESTERDAY-BREATH--HECREATEDALLTHESE TIME-HOLESACROSS-MANHATTAN--
WILL YOU STOP TRYING TO DISTRACT ME!
WAAAAUGH!!
NONE OF YOU POOPY-HEADS WANTS TO HAVE ANY FUN!!
GOOD RIDDANCE.
LET'S GO AFTER IMPY AGAIN, TORCHIE!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BENJAMIN!
BUT I KNOW YOU ONLY WANT TO CATCH HIM JUST 'CAUSE HE'S UGLIER THAN YOU ARE!
AFTER WE PUT GREENIE ON THE SKIDS, MATCHSTICK, YER NEXT!

ARE YOU SURE THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN'S AS IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW AS--
SHWZZ Z ZTTT
NEVER MIND, I GUESS.
DR. RICHARDS-- MRS. RICHARDS-- I MEAN, MS. STORM, STILL I GUESS--
UHM... MISS, NOT MS. YET.. UHM--
--THE THING AND THE HUMAN TORCH JUST DISAPPEARED INTO ONE OF THOSE TIME-POCKETS I WAS--
--TALKING--
--ABOUT--
MIKE--I'M GOING TO WRING YOUR NECK FOR MAKING ME USE MY WEEKEND WITH THE TURBO-SUIT TO BRING YOU INTO MANHATTAN!
THEN I'M GOING TO SQUEEZE YOUR BRAIN JUICE OUT ONTO THE FLOOR...
WHILE AT THE MUSEUM, THE OBJECT OF TURBO'S AFFECTIONS, HER COLLEGE FRIEND AND CO-OWNER OF THE SUIT THEY SHARE, MICHAEL JEFFRIES--
--HAS HOOKED UP WITH SLAP-STICK'S BEST FRIEND AND VOICE-OF-BETTER-REASON, MIKE PETERSON--
--AS THEY TRY TO GAUGE THE EFFECTS OF DR. YESTERDAY'S CHRONAL TAMPERING ON THE VERY STRUCTURE OF REALITY!
OR, AT THE LEAST, TAKE IN SOME OF THE NEW TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO SEE!
WHY, BOYS I MUST SAY, IT DOES A HEART GOOD TO SEE--
HOMMINA HOMMINA HOMMINA

--THAT TWO YOUTHS OF DIFFERENT COLOR COULD BE FRIENDS--
--AND HELP OTHERS TO SEE THAT THIS LONG, BITTER WAR BETWEEN OUR STATES--
--HAS BEEN AN EFFORT WORTHY OF THE UNDERTAKING.
SHUZZ TH
WOW.
GEEZ.
WOW AND GEEZ.
Y'KNOW, MIKE-- PRESIDENT LINCOLN WAS ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT!
NO, I MEAN IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
I SHOULD HOPE SO!
THE OTHERS ARE SO BUSY FIGHTING AGAINST THE ELEMENTS WHICH DR. YESTERDAY HAS THROWN AT THEM--
--THAT IT'S UP TO US TO TRY AND FIND A WAY TO SEE THIS FIGHT THROUGH TO THE BITTER END!
YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS SUPERHERO STUFF, AREN'T YOU?
UHM... DOES IT SHOW TOO MUCH.
NO... NOT REALLY... AND I MEAN... IT COULD BE KIND OF USEFUL--
I LIKE TO THINK SO, TOO.
I'M ALWAYS TELLING TURBO THAT--
NO--I MEANT, MORE ALONG THE LINES OF-- RIGHT NOW!
HOW SO?

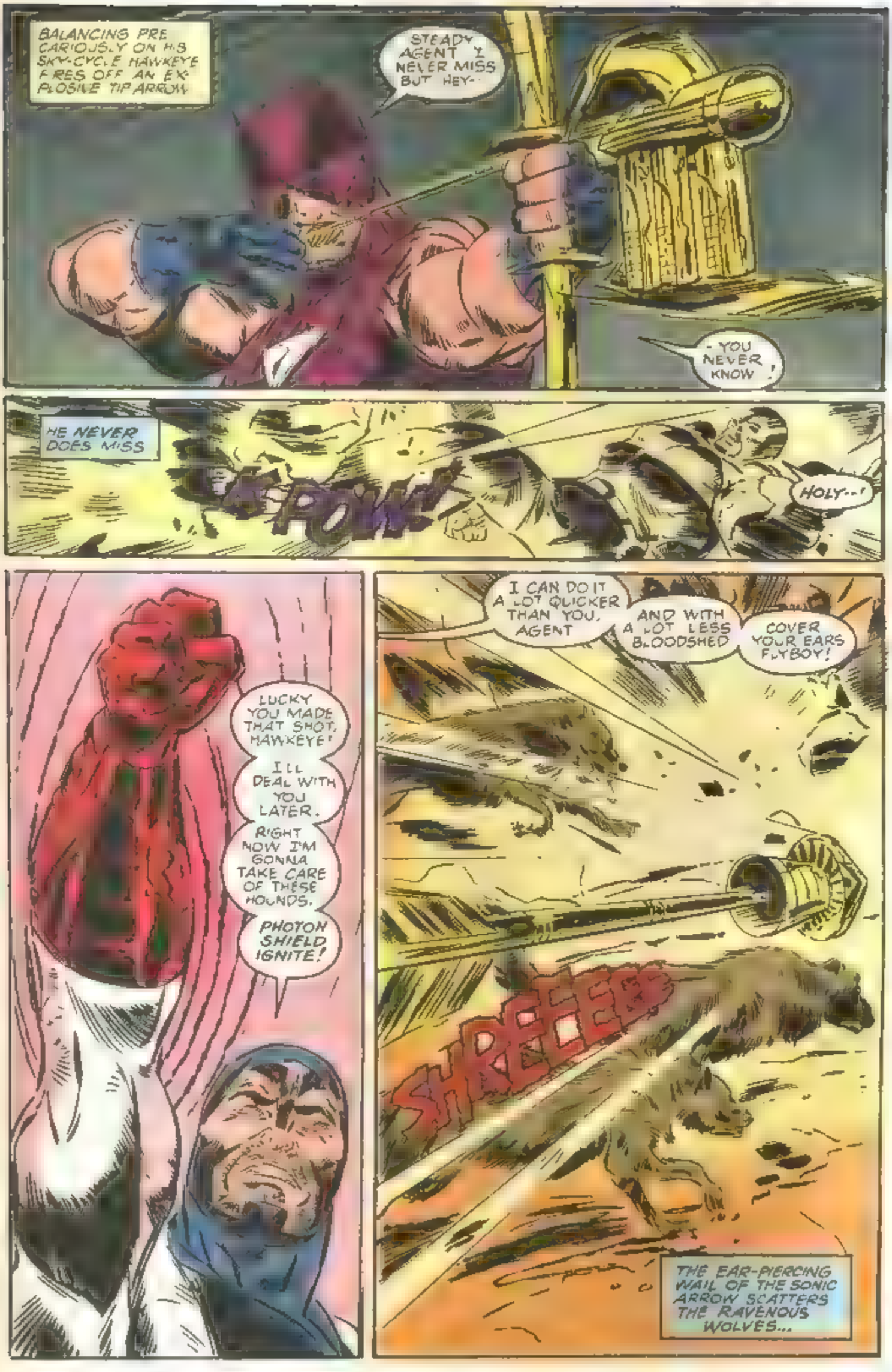
GROWWWRRR
WELL, I WAS JUST SORT OF HOPING YOU HAD SOME FRAME OF REFERENCE TO GO BY IF CONFRONTED BY A HUGE RED DINOSAUR AND A FURRY MONKEY BOY, THAT'S ALL.
* TRANSLATED FROM CAVE BOY: "STAND AT EASE, DEVIL DINOSAUR, UNTIL MOONBOY CAN ASCERTAIN THAT THESE STRANGE BEINGS POSE NO THREAT TO US!"
DON'T WORRY, MIKE, OL' CONFIDANT, OL' PAL, OL' CHUM, OL' DON'T-WORRY-SLAPPY-I'LL-NEVER-TELL-YOUR-MOM-WHERE-YOU-HIDE-YOUR-PLAYBOYS--
--SLAPSTICK SHALL SAVE YOU FROM THIS--

--MONSTROUS--
--THREAT--?
I'M TOUCHING A SMELLY, FURRY CAVE CREATURE.
SHVZZZZIT!!
OH MY GAWD!!!
I JUST SLAPPED A MONKEY!
THOUGHT YOU'D BE KIND OF USED TO THAT BY NOW...
SHAZZAKKRAKOOOOM
MY YOUNG OPPONENTS, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ALL LEARN TO ADJUST BETTER THAN YOU HAVE THUS FAR--
--TO THE INCURSIONS CAUSED BY MY MANIPULATIONS OF THE TEMPORAL STORM!
FOR, AS CLICHED AS IT MAY SOUND TO ALL OF YOU...

...THE WORST OF TIMES ARE YET TO COME!!
EEEP--!
TO BE CONTINUED!!

A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO, MASTER ARCHER CLINT BARTON, A.K.A. HAWKEYE, THOUGHT HE HAD SEEN THE LAST OF A FORMER AVENGERS TEAMMATE.
SOMEONE FOR WHOM THERE IS NO LOVE LOST.
SOMEONE WHO'S IN ONE MESS OF A JAM RIGHT NOW..
GOT TO MAKE THIS FLARE ARROW COUNT.
IF I DON'T, SOMEONE'S GOING TO END UP BEING TONIGHT'S DINNER FOR THOSE BEASTS.
HAWKEYE
THE HUNGRY WOLF

WHAT IN BLAZES DID YOU MEAN BY LEAVING ME WITH MY LEG STUCK IN THIS BLASTED HOLE?
HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THESE THINGS RIP ME TO SHREDS!
QUIT YOUR GRIPING, U.S. AGENT, AND DON'T MOVE!
I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY NEXT SHOT GOING THROUGH YOUR LEG IF YOU DO
THEIR UNEASY MEETING BEGAN EARLIER THIS EVENING WHEN U.S. AGENT TRACKED DOWN HAWKEYE HERE IN TENNESSEE.
HIS PURPOSE WAS TO BRING THE BOWMAN BACK TO CALIFORNIA TO BE WITH THE REST OF THE FORMER WEST COAST AVENGERS, NOW KNOWN AS FORCE WORKS
BUT HAWKEYE DIDN'T EXACTLY WELCOME HIS VISITOR WARMLY.
AND RIGHT NOW, HE'S AGENT'S ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVING THE NEXT FEW MINUTES


BALANCING PRECARIOUSLY ON HIS SKY-CYCLE HAWKEYE FIRES OFF AN EXPLOSIVE TIP ARROW
STEADY AGENT I NEVER MISS BUT HEY--
- YOU NEVER KNOW !
HE NEVER DOES MISS
POW
HOLY--!
LUCKY YOU MADE THAT SHOT, HAWKEYE!
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER.
RIGHT NOW I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF THESE HOUNDS.
PHOTON SHIELD IGNITE!
I CAN DO IT A LOT QUICKER THAN YOU, AGENT
AND WITH A LOT LESS BLOODSHED
COVER YOUR EARS FLYBOY!
SHREEEE
THE EAR-PIERCING WAIL OF THE SONIC ARROW SCATTERS THE RAVENOUS WOLVES...

YOU WERE SERIOUS THEN?! THE WEST COASTERS CALLED IT QUITS?
THEY TOLD US OUR WORK ALL THIS TIME WAS WORTHLESS.
YOU PEOPLE LEFT THE AVENGERS?! WHAT IN BLAZES FOR?
HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER THAT X-MEN FIASCO IN GENOSHA. BUT I FORGOT-- YOU SPLIT RIGHT AFTER THAT MESS
LEFT US TO GET OUR BUTTS KICKED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA.
CAP WAS BEHIND THIS?
WOULD'VE SMACKED IN HIS FACE IF IT WASN'T FOR IRON MAN.
IRON MAN? YOU SURE IT WAS HIM OR ONE OF HIS REMOTE-CONTROLLED UNITS?
HE CAN BE A REAL #!%@!D WHEN HE WANTS TO.
A REAL USER OF PEOPLE.
THINK ABOUT IT, AGENT. HE FAKED HIS OWN DEATH, DUPED HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS.
ENDANGERED OUR LIVES BY LEAVING THE GROUP. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM FOR THAT.
SUDDENLY, HE'S ON HIS OWN BACK IN ACTION RHODEY FILLED IN AS WAR MACHINE, BUT IF STARK... IRON MAN WAS THERE WHEN WE FOUGHT MEPHISTO ...MAYBE.
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
DARN STRAIGHT! THEN MAYBE BOBBI WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
I'M SO FED UP WITH THIS BULL. THE WAY PEOPLE HAVE LET ME DOWN SO MUCH.
AFTER ALL IRON MAN AND I WENT THROUGH-- HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME INTO THIS RACKET. EVEN THE AVENGERS. CAP WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOWED AT BOBBI'S FUNERAL.
WHERE WERE THE REST OF THEM? THE REST OF MY SO-CALLED "FAMILY"?
YOU EXPECT ME TO GO BACK TO THAT GARBAGE? NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT, TURKEY.

I'M SORRY, BARTON, REALLY
YEAH, RIGHT AGENT
LET'S CATCH SOME SLEEP
BUT IN THE MORNING --WE'RE BOTH GOING BACK TO THE COAST.
OH BY THE WAY--I FORGOT TO TELL YOU
--WONDER MAN'S GONE
HE'S DEAD.
SIMON... DEAD?! MY GOD, AGENT, HOW?
WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE KREE AT THE OLD HEADQUARTERS. SIMON SAVED OUR LIVES SAVED THE BLASTED PLANET.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA PLAY THIS GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE ROUTINE? YOU'RE NOT THE BOY SCOUT TYPE, Y'KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, AGENT? YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED MY GUTS.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY, FIRST BOBBI, THEN--
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE, BARTON! YOU LOST YOUR WIFE. I LOST MY PARENTS. THEIR DEATH HAUNTS EVERY WAKING MOMENT OF MY EXISTENCE.
I'M THE ONE WHO'S SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKIN' IN! NEVER QUITE GOOD ENOUGH FOR ANYBODY... ESPECIALLY SUPER HERO SNOBS!
I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT IT, BUT I FIGURE THAT'S LIFE.
AT LEAST I'M NOT RUNNIN' AND HIDING FROM IT!

THIS IS THE THANKS I GET FOR COMING BACK TO SAVE YOUR HIDE?
WHO IN BLAZES DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GETTING IN MY FACE LIKE THAT?!
REMEMBER, YOU RE AN UNINVITED GUEST ON MY TURF AND I M GETTING TIRED OF BEING AROUND YOU..
I'LL BEAT YOUR BRAINS OUT!
THRAAP

IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT, BARTON, GET SOME SLEEP TOMORROW WE'LL GO BACK--
--COME HELL OR HIGH WATER
YEAH RIGHT AGENT RIGHT
"LOOK, BARTON, I SPENT A PRETTY RESTLESS NIGHT THINKING ABOUT THINGS.
"I DON'T ENVY YOU BOBBI, IRON MAN, THE STUFF I LAYED ON YOU YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY."
I REALIZE MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME, TO, HEY--!
THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS ANSWER--
WHA--? THE LITTLE WEASEL'S GONE!
STUFFED HIS GEAR SO IT'D LOOK LIKE HE WAS STILL HERE
You're not all bad, Agent! Thanks for letting me get that stuff off my chest, it helped. You didn't really expect me to stick around, did you?! Hawk
NO, I GUESS NOT, BOWMAN. GOOD LUCK
NEARBY..
AND THE SAME TO YOU, AGENT--WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE THINKING.
THANKS FOR SETTING ME STRAIGHT LAST NIGHT.
YOU'RE PRETTY SHORT ON BEDSIDE MANNER, BUT YOU GET THE JOB DONE.
YOU AND YOUR FORCE WORKS PALS CAN EXPECT A VISIT FROM ME REAL SOON, YES, AGENT--
--THE HAWK'S BACK!

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MARVEL
MIDNIGHT SONS
LATE AUG

VENGEANCE HAWKEYE MACE NEW WARRIORS

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

C/O 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY, 10016

was a complete enough critique so I refrain from that, but I will say that I've never felt your Iron Fist stories did the character justice. I remain a huge fan of Marvel's martial arts books so Floyd Hughes and Reggie Jones' Daughters of the Dragon warmed my heart. I don't think any writer at Marvel was doing those characters a service when they have been included in stories in the past few years. C'mon guys, I'd really like to see more of Misty and Colleen.

All in all I think Marvel Comics Presents is the place to find the little gems of stories in the Marvel Universe, and I hope you continue to print the offbeat stories that I find so enjoyable.

Scott Clark
(address withheld by request)

Scott, I think we're about to make you a happy reader. Just the other day we received a package from England containing the fantastic art for the first two chapters of a brand-new Man-Thing story. The moody story is written by Simon Jowett, and the moss-encrusted art is by Paul Johnson. Also to keep you an interested reader of our future issues, we'll let you know that we just mailed out the plots of a Len Kaminski Werewolf story to artist James Fry8, and we'll be putting together the same team that last wrestled with your favorite Lycanthrope.

Dear MCP

I like the way this comic is going. You're featuring the right assortment of characters. Hawkeye is perfect, coming off of his limited series. There are a lot of ex-non-active Avengers who could be featured. Hawkeye deserves solo work perhaps more than any. You just should not have spoiled Wonder Man's death over in Force Works.

Now that Nick Fury's comic is gone, he is another good choice. He's a popular character who just can't sustain a regular series. I'd like to see him have more than a one-shot though.

A MCP story is about as much as I want to see of Vengeance. He's too much of a copy to have his own series, but these stories are fine.

The New Warriors are a good selection too. I was disappointed to see them in here as a team, rather than in solo action. Other characters (besides Nova and Night Thrasher who have their own series) deserve a story; particularly a character featured in this issue, Turbo! (Mickey, not the dweeb!) It's an interesting (if not original story) and I like the inclusion of Slapstick, well done. The art was okay except for the splash page which was fabulous. Turbo looks great.

Chris Connelly
7008 Appoline
Dearborn MI 48126

Thanks for the letter, Chris.

Not sure what you meant about spoiling Wonder-Man's death. We're glad you like the Hawkeye series and you can look forward to more work for those ex-non-active and active members of Force Works in the future.

As for the other members of the New Warriors in solo stories, we have stories in the works for Speedball, Rage, and Turbo so sit tight in your seat.

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RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY PHIL HUGH FELIX

VENGEANCE

DIABOLIQUE
PART 2 OF 4
"WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE OF"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....JON BABCOCK
COLORS .....JOE ANDREANI

Sugar and spice, and everything nice. She's just an innocent little girl, isn't she?

NEW WARRIORS

SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT
PART 3 OF 5
"YESTERDAY WILL BE MORE FUN THAN TOMORROW"

WRITER FABIAN NICIEZA
PENCILS . ROBERT WALKER
INKS . SCOTT KOBLISH
LETTERS . ...SUE CRESPI
COLORS .....MARYANN LIGHTLE

Time stands still for members of the New Warriors, as they come face to face with several heroes and villains displaced in time by the evil of Dr. Yesterday!

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

Batters up! It is softball season again and Marvel's softball team is (like most of our heroes) sluggin' away. Away in Central Park that is, where nearly all of our games take place. The members of this office are not the most sports-minded fellows, following neither baseball, cricket, American or English football (and this being our year to host the World Cup). But we've been out there on the diamonds for the past three summers, for the fun and merriment that comes with Marvel softball.

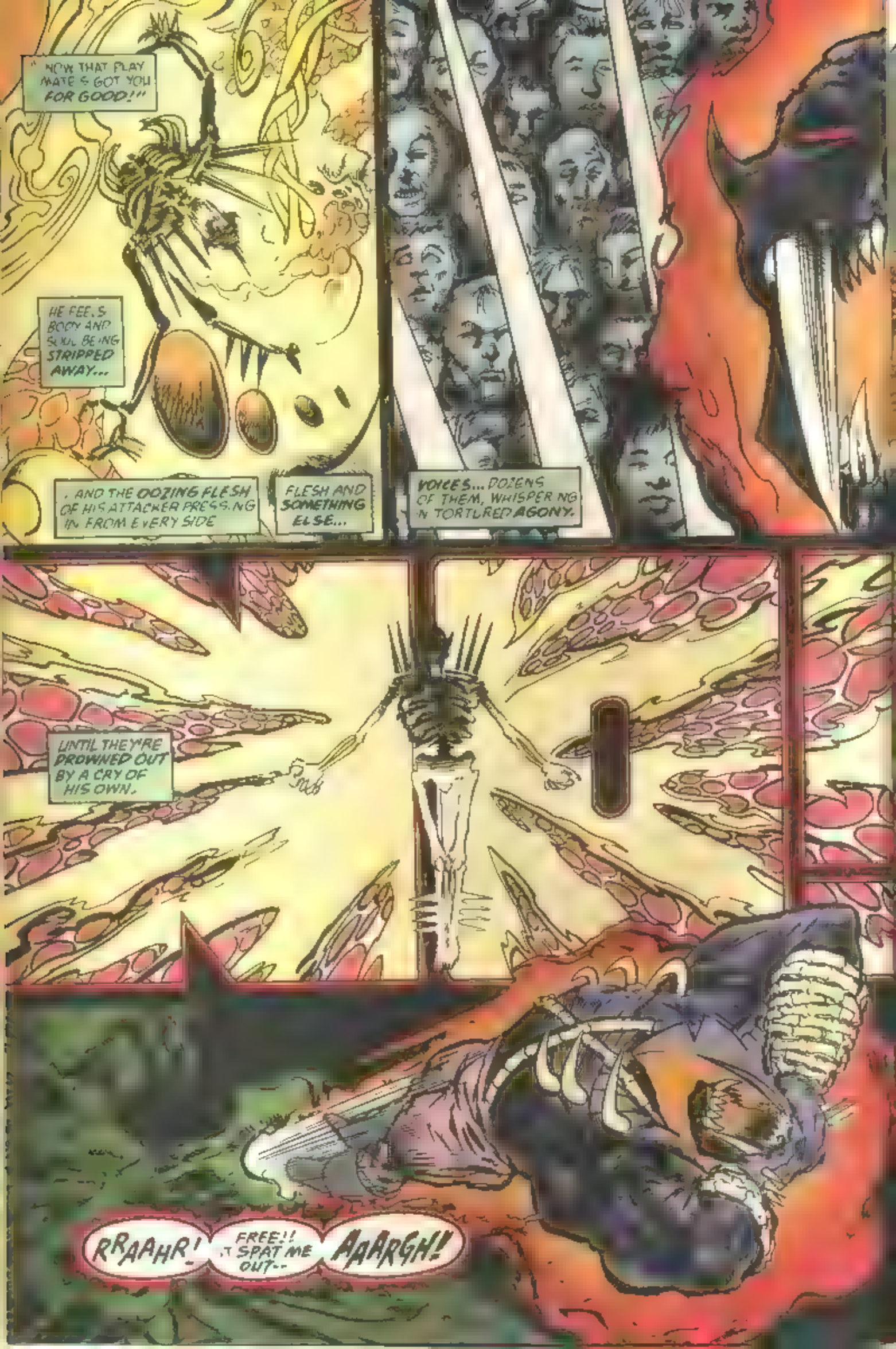
We've still got mud on our shoes from the past two games which we played in the rain, to the accompaniment of the Mighty Thor's thunder and lightning. Which might explain our recent victories over rivals DC and Scholastic Publishing. Though we can't rule out the super-heroic playing of the editorial and production staff.

It's the start of a long season, and who knows how we'll do at its end, but we'll try to be like our friend in the spider suit, and keep swinging.

From the dugout,
Richard and Michael

VENGEANCE
CREATED BY HOWARD TAYLOR AND ADAM WILBERT
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM
YEARGH!
WHAT ARE LITTLE GIRLS MADE OF?

TAKE FORMER NYPD LIEUTENANT MICHAEL BADILINO, WHO TOOK TO NEW YORK'S SUBWAYS TO INVESTIGATE A SERIES OF DISAPPEARANCES...
...AND ENDED UP FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE AS VENGEANCE
OR TAKE THE THING CALLED PLAYMATE THAT SEEKS TO ENGULF HIM--
--VENGEANCE MAY NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN THE HORROR OF WHAT TRULY IS.
OR TAKE THE SWEET LITTLE GIRL AT THE END OF THE PLATFORM.
ABOVE ALL ELSE PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO HER.
LEST YOU, TOO, FALL PREY TO DIABOLIQUE!
YOU'RE A BAD MAN--BUT YOU'LL BE NICER, ONCE YOU JOIN MY PLAY-MATE
WON'T THAT BE FUN?
MY PET SPIDER HERE, ZOROASTER, THINKS SO. DON'T YOU, ZORO?
ZORO SAYS HE'S AMAZED HOW HARD YOU FIGHT TO--EEEK!
ZORO CAN FRY!
WHOOM
SHE... BLOCKED MY BLAST?!?
NAUGHTY MAN MAN TRYING TO HURT ZORO WITH...
...HELLFIRE?!? HOW PRETTY!!
I'LL SAVE IT TO REMEMBER YOU BY.

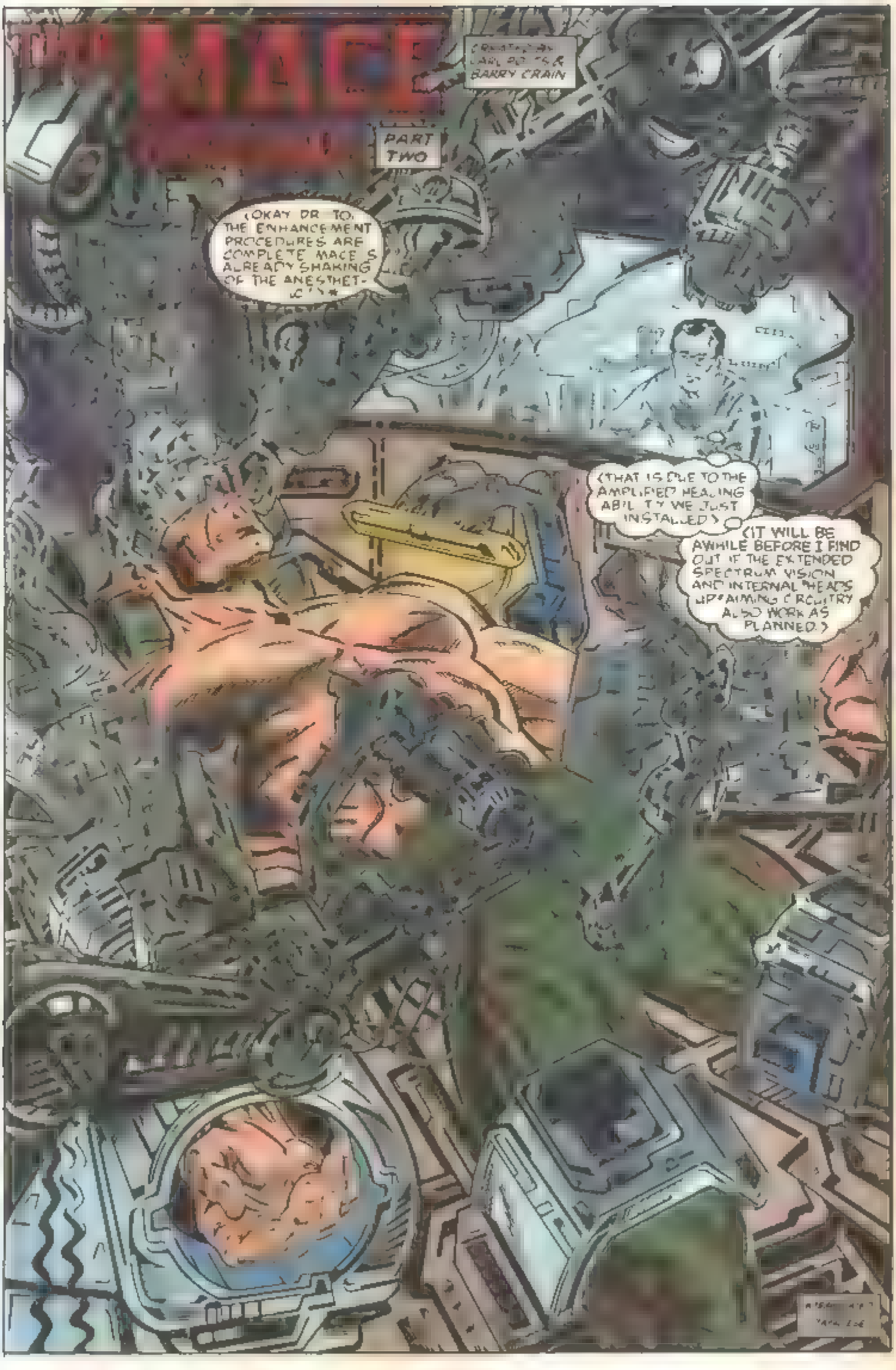

"NOW THAT PLAY MATE'S GOT YOU FOR GOOD!"
HE FEELS BODY AND SOUL BEING STRIPPED AWAY...
...AND THE OOZING FLESH OF HIS ATTACKER PRESSING IN FROM EVERY SIDE
FLESH AND SOMETHING ELSE...
VOICES... DOZENS OF THEM, WHISPERING IN TORTURED AGONY.
UNTIL THEY'RE DROWNED OUT BY A CRY OF HIS OWN.
RRAAHR!
FREE!! IT SPAT ME OUT--
AAARGH!

HELLFIRE CAN DESTROY IT, SO IT COULDN'T CONSUME ME!
BUT WHY DO I GET A MIGRAINE EVERY TIME I HURT WITH HELLFIRE? I--
HIS MIND FLASHES BACK.
WAIT.. AMID ITS TWISTING FLESH...
I RECOGNIZE THAT FACE!!
I'VE SEEN A PHOTOGRAPH OF IT.
TO WHEN AS BADILINO, HE VISITED HIS OLD OFFICE AT THE PRECINCT AND, DESPITE HIS RESIGNATION GOT SUCKED IN-TO THE LATEST INVESTIGATION..
.. AND SAW PHOTOS OF THOSE WHO HAD DIS-APPEARED IN THE SUBWAYS--
BADILINO
OUT
IN COMING
- JUST BEFORE DIABO-LIQUE LATCHED ONTO HIM, AND THEN TURNED ON HIM REVEALING HER TRUE NATURE WHEN SHE LEARNED HE WAS VENGEANCE!*
*LAST ISSUE - R. Chard
DEAR GOD, I UNDERSTAND NOW!
THIS PLAYMATE... THE VOICES I HEARD INSIDE IT... IT'S THE MISSING PEOPLE, MELTED TOGETHER AND ENSLAVED BODY AND SOUL, TO DO DIABOLIQUE'S BIDDING!
NIGHT OF THE LIVING
VENGEANCE STINK
THAT'S WHY USING HELLFIRE AGAINST IT CAUSES ME PAIN-- BECAUSE "IT" IS REALLY INNOCENT PEOPLE...
.. AND GOD HELP THEM, THEY'RE STILL ALIVE... AND AWARE!!

YOU V CIOUS LITT E WITCH!!! I'LL--
WHAM
OH, PLAYMATE, THAT WAS FUNNY, HOW YOU GRABBED HIM LIKE THAT
BUT WE HAVE TO GO, YOU'VE MADE PLENTY OF NEW FRIENDS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS..
.. NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO FIND THE ONE PERSON WE REALLY CAME TO NEW YORK TO MEET
WE'LL LET ZORDASTER HAVE SOME FUN WITH THE MEAN MAN!
THE SPIDER?!? YOU'VE GOT TO BE ..
..KIDDING.

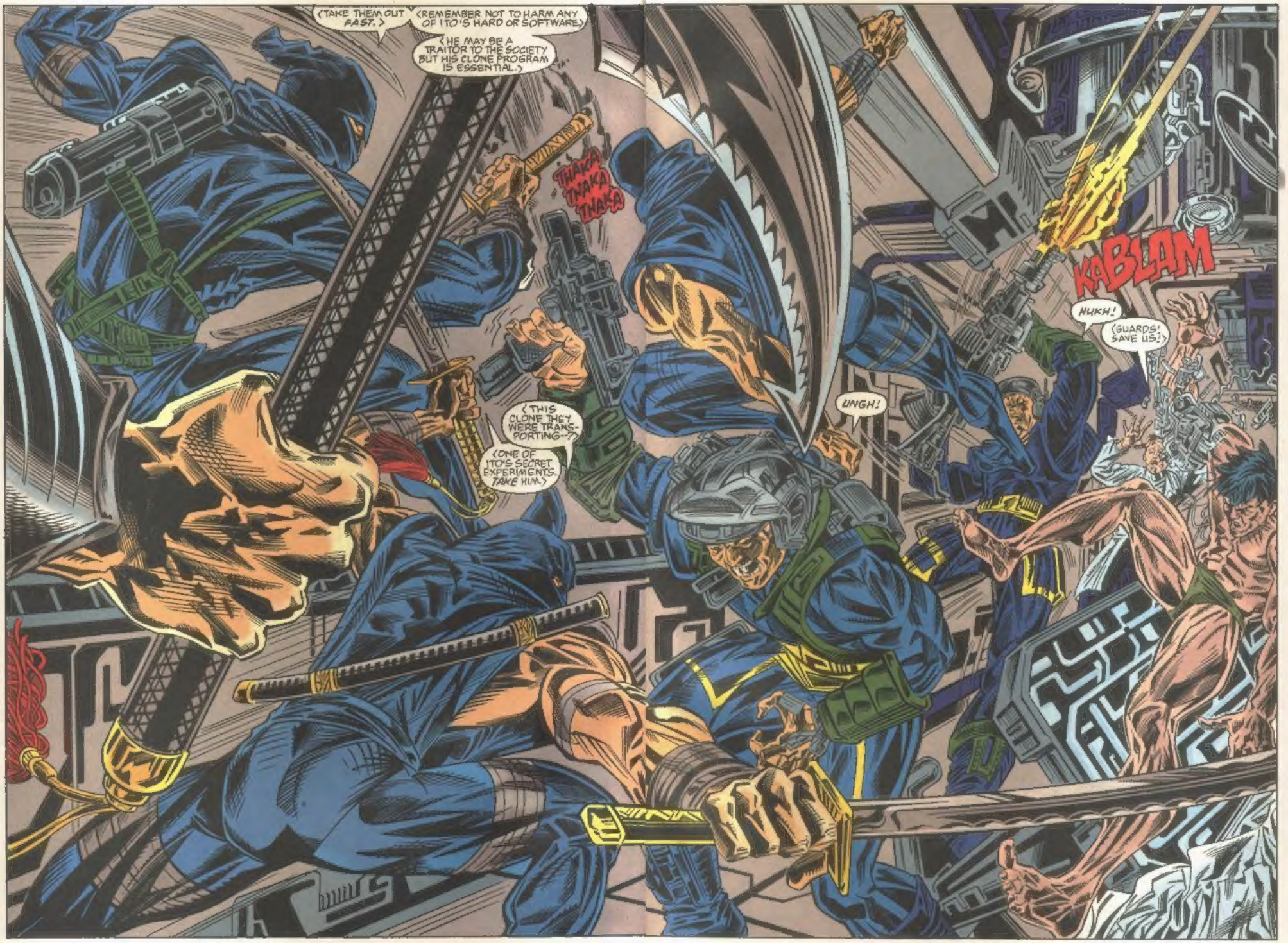
SOON
DOWNTOWN
ALL TIMES
SOB!
NOW THERE, YOUNG LADY...
..WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE?
OH, MR. POLICEMAN, SIR,? SNIFF? I'M LOST AND I'M TRYING TO GET TO TIMES SQUARE AND I CAN'T AND NO ONE WILL HELP ME
TIMES SQUARE?? WHY, THAT'S NO PLACE FOR A LITTLE LADY LIKE YOU TO BE ALL BY HERSELF.
BUT-
WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS HMM? LET'S GO FIND THEM, OKAY?
BUT-
WE'LL RIDE TO THE PRECINCT HOUSE IN MY BIG, SHINY NEW--
I WANNA GO TO TIMES SQUARE, AND I WANNA GO--
--NOW!
UUUUH ..
SURE KID, TIMES SQUARE... RIGHT AWAY...
SUCH A NICE MAN!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY DADDY?

MEANWHILE ACROSS TOWN.
ECHOOM
SKREEE
SHRRIP
SKREEE
HELLFIRE HURTS, I-- BUT IT'S NOT STOPPING IT!
SEEMS I'LL HAVE TO CRIPPLE IT SOME OTHER WAY!
THAT OUGHTTA
..WAIT..
..THE SEVERED LEG..IT'S GROWING BACK!!
THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THIS THING!!!
TO BE CONTINUED..


MACE
CREATED BY CARL POTTS & BARRY CRAIN
PART TWO
(OKAY DR. TO. THE ENHANCEMENT PROCEDURES ARE COMPLETE MACE S ALREADY SHAKING OF THE ANESTHET- IC *
(THAT IS DUE TO THE AMPLIFIED HEALING ABI L TY WE JUST INSTALLED.)
(IT WILL BE AWHILE BEFORE I FIND OUT IF THE EXTENDED SPECTRUM VISION AND INTERNAL HEADS UP AIMING C RCUITRY ALSO WORK AS PLANNED.)

(TAKE IT EASY, SON EVERYTHING IS FINE
(NO NO, MACE. PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES SHUT.)
(UNTIL WE TRAIN YOU TO CONTROL YOUR EXTENDED VISION...)
(THE MORE RELAXED YOU ARE, THE BETTER IT WILL BE.)
(WE ARE GIVING YOU PAIN KILLERS. THEY WILL KEEP YOU DROWSY.)
(... THE INFRA RED AND ULTRA VIOLET VISUALS WILL MAKE EVERYTHING LOOK VERY STRANGE-- DISORIENTING
(HERE, I WILL BANDAGE YOUR EYES. TRY TO STAY CALM
(AND DO NOT TELL ANYONE ELSE OF THIS EXPERIMENT EH?)
(TAKE HIM INTO THE RECOVERY AREA.)
(I MUST MAKE SOME NOTES ON THE OPERATION BEFORE MY OLD BRAIN FORGETS.)
A MINUTE LATER THE ELEVATOR REACHES ITS DESTINATION...
(INTRUDER ALARM?)
(AND DR. ITO'S NINJA BODY-GUARD IS AWAY ON A MISSION. RING FOR THE SECTION HTS GUARDS!)
(DONE! COULD IT BE? HAS THE GOVERNMENT FOUND US??)

〈NO - NOT THE GOVERN-MENT.〉
〈WHA...? SOCIETY'S *HTNIS*!? WHY? 〉
HIGH TECH NINJAS


(TAKE THEM OUT FAST.)
(REMEMBER NOT TO HARM ANY OF ITO'S HARD OR SOFTWARE.)
(HE MAY BE A TRAITOR TO THE SOCIETY BUT HIS CLONE PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL.)
THAKA THAKA THAKA
(THIS CLONE THEY WERE TRANSPORTING--?)
(ONE OF ITO'S SECRET EXPERIMENTS. TAKE HIM.)
UNGH!
KABLAM
HUKH!
(GUARDS! SAVE US!)

BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA
<ITO HAS AUTOMATED DEFENSE SYSTEMS!>
BLAM
THWANG
THERE IS ITO!>
AIEE!
THAKATHAK
ARGH!
SWOOSH
THUNK
<DOCTOR!>
<SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY CONSCIENCE... LONG AGO.>
<THE SOCIETY IS... COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL, TOTALLY PARANOID.>

(MUST DESTROY MY... COMPUTER FILES.)
(EVERYTHING IS ON THE HARD DRIVES... MUST... WIPE CLEAN.)

(THERE!)
(THEY WILL... NEVER BE ABLE TO... RECOVER MY... LATEST RESEARCH...)

(... ON MACE...)
AIEEE!
THWK

(THE OVERLORD IS NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS.)
(WHATEVER ITO WAS UP TO IS LOST TO US!)

(DOCTOR...?)
(WE MAY BE ABLE TO RETAIN OUR HONOR, AND OUR LIVES...)
(... BY RETRIEVING ITO'S SECRET CLONE.)
(HE WILL SERVE AS THE HARD AND SOFTWARE FOR ITO'S LATEST RE-SEARCH.)
(WAIT! SOMETHING IS WRONG!)
(SURFACE EXPLOSIONS!)
("THE SOCIETY COMPLEX IS UNDER ATTACK!")
ONLY TWO MORE WEEKS UNTIL... THE SHADOWMASTERS!